

The cosponsors of this amendment believe we need targets that will keep the pressure on our Government and on all of us to use the authorities Congress has provided to achieve the robust oil savings America and its people need. The DRIVE Act, which is the act from which this title I amendment is taken, has 26 cosponsors in the Senate, a broadly bipartisan group reflective of every section of the country and every ideology represented in the Congress. It shows there is a consensus of demand for change in savings in oil consumption. That is exactly what this amendment would do.

I urge my colleagues to adopt it overwhelmingly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I first acknowledge my good friend from Connecticut for his good work on the DRIVE Act over the last several years. It is no coincidence that he and a number of bipartisan Senators have been leading the effort to make sure we set America free. In fact, the coalition that helped in writing the legislation Senator LIEBERMAN spoke about calls itself the Set America Free Coalition. It includes conservatives such as C. Boyden Gray and progressives such as former Senator Tim Wirth, who have come together and recognized that setting America free from our addiction to foreign oil is an imperative for the United States in the 21st century.

Similar to the good work that gets done in this Chamber, this is bipartisan legislation. This amendment also has the cosponsorship of Senators BROWNBACK, COLEMAN, LINCOLN, CANTWELL, KERRY, DODD, COLLINS, KOHL, and REED of Rhode Island, and others. It is a good amendment that reflects the bipartisan composition of this body.

Let me say why I believe this ambitious set of goals for the United States is important. It is irrefutable that today about 66 percent of the oil being used in America comes from abroad. Of the oil we are importing from those foreign countries, 41 percent of it comes from underneath the sands or lands of hostile regimes. So that national security implication is we need to get off the pipeline to those hostile regimes that today essentially allows them to fund the war on terror against the United States and the free world.

The legislation we have before us with this amendment reflects the American dream of a more energy-secure future, with fewer oil imports and a strong renewable energy economy here at home.

We need to set high goals for oil savings because we know we can, in fact, meet them if we set them high—in the same way we set high standards in the 1960s, when President Kennedy said we would be launching an initiative that would get a man to the moon within 10 years, and we were able to do that; in the same way President Roosevelt said

we would be able to move forward and develop the Manhattan Project, and we were able to do so within 4 years.

That is the same kind of vision and the same kind of boldness we need to have with respect to oil savings in America today. The amendment we have brought before this body today—which is the embodiment of the oil savings provision of the DRIVE Act—in fact, has that kind of boldness, that kind of courage within it. I, therefore, strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to support the amendment we have brought before you.

Let me, once again, say this amendment is broadly supported by both Republicans and Democrats in the Senate. I hope it is one of those amendments that can be adopted by our Chamber.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 1515 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1502
(Purpose: To establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program)

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment which is at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I would like to talk to the Senator. We are still on the amendment. What are you asking? That we set it aside for what purpose?

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wish to offer an amendment to create a workforce for sustainable energy and energy efficiency. We are building on what was in the bill originally. We have boilerplate language.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, parliamentary inquiry: We have set aside only one amendment to proceed with another thus far; that is, the amendment of the Senator from Oklahoma was set aside; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, now he is asking that be done again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is also correct.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, I ask the Senator, how long do you think you would be before we could return to the regular order?

Mr. SANDERS. Fifteen minutes or so.

Mr. DOMENICI. One-five?

Mr. SANDERS. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. I do not wish to restrict you. You talk long similar to myself. Would you rather have 20 or 25 minutes?

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, 15 or 20. I think I can do it in 15.

Mr. DOMENICI. Twenty minutes is all right by me.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Senator. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to setting aside the pending amendment?

There being no objection, the pending amendment will be set aside and the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. BIDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 1515 to amendment No. 1502.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. SANDERS. Let me thank my friend from New Mexico for the opportunity to go forward.

Madam President, I rise to offer an amendment on behalf of myself, Senator CLINTON, Senator KERRY, and Senator BIDEN.

Our amendment would strike section 277 of the Senate substitute, which is very broad language directing the Secretary of Labor to work with the Secretary of Energy to develop workforce training for the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors, and replace it with a clearer directive regarding workforce development in those same areas.

Before I get too far along in the description of the amendment, I would like to thank Senators Bingaman and Domenici for including section 277 in the underlying bill. I think we all recognize the need to provide more workforce training in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy if we are to truly meet the challenge in front of us.

The amendment I offer today simply builds upon the language already included in the legislation we are considering, and so I hope it will receive the resounding support of this body. In other words, we had boilerplate language already in it, and we have built upon that. Up to this point, we have had strong bipartisan support.

This amendment would create a sustainable, comprehensive public program to provide quality training for jobs created through renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives—an area of our economy that is in tremendous need of expansion to meet the demand for a skilled workforce in these sectors.

Fundamentally, the amendment would do two basic things: One, expand our Nation's capacity to identify and track the new jobs and skills associated with the growing clean energy technology sector; secondly, develop national and State training programs to address skill shortages that have already begun to impair the expansion of clean energy and efficiency technologies.

More specifically, the amendment would authorize funding for national and State research on labor market trends in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. Additionally, the amendment would provide competitive grants for national and State